

Chap. XV] GOD AS **ANANDAM** OR LOVE ITSELF.
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past, present, and to come, has risen, will
arise from obedience
to this law. The law of Love is the central
energy of the
spiritual universe, emanating from the
Infinite Will of God.
Wherever it is obeyed, joy leaps up like a
fountain. In
daily life, it creates the habit of thinking
and living for
others rather than for oneself, of the active
desire to give and
bless, of help and sympathy, of kindness and
graciousness,
of **self-forgetfulness**. With the practice of
it, grace and joy
and brightness .illuminate the face, speak
through the
manners, irradiate the speech, make
beautiful the common
action and adorn the trials of life with
unexpected charm.
There is nothing more enchanting than the
brightness of one
who is not thinking of himself. Love endures
in illness?
conquers decay, makes old age beautiful as
youth. It passes
through death with an exultant knowledge
that it will live
for ever with a Love higher than its own.
Love never
ails. The humblest creature that loves
purely and unselfishly
is nobler a thousand times than the
philosopher whose nature
responds to no touch of sympathy. He who
loves .can play
like a child on the verge of eternity. Indeed,
the true lover

is himself eternal. He is in God and God is
in him and God
is love.

As Ramakrishna Paramahansa has
observed. God's
love may be likened to a magnet. It attracts
man to Him
as a magnet attracts iron. As/ however, iron
thickly embedded
in dust becomes impervious to the
attraction of the magnet,.
so the human soul, heavily enveloped in its
own sin, becomes
insensible to the attraction of the Lord. But
when the
mud is washed away with water, the iron is
free to move
and responds to the magnet, even so, when
the soul's sin is
washed away by constant tears of prayer
and repentance,
man soon feels the attraction of God and
realises his unity
with Him.

It is therefore wrong to believe, as
unfortunately some
do, that man was conceived in sin and born
in iniquity